Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is not one hour a long delay?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—In view of the long distance between the two places it is not a long delay.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—Especially when there was complaint, did not the Commissioner of Police think it necessary to go into the matter?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—But the complaint was found to be unfounded.

97. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Commissioner of Police received complaints from the public that the lady passengers who were seated in the front row of a bus were asked to remove themselves from their seats to make room for a Police officer;

(b) is it not a fact that one C. Kuttikrishna Menon, Drill Inspector, of the Veloor School and brother of one of the ladies, protested before vacating the seat;

(c) did he complain to the Commissioner of Police about this;

(d) was one Mahamad Ali, the driver of the bus concerned, asked by the Commissioner of Police to appear before him;

(e) if so, did he not corroborate the statements contained in the petition;

(f) what action was taken by the Commissioner in the matter?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) There was no such complaint. But an article appeared in the "Snehithan" dated 20th Thulam 1109 to the effect.

(b) No information.

(c) No.

(d) Yes.

(e) There was no petition.

(f) No action was deemed necessary.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was one Muhamadali asked to appear before the Commissioner? What was the reason for asking him to appear before the Commissioner?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Just to find out from him whether any such things happened as alleged in the papers.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the statement given by him?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—A seat was reserved for the D. S. P. without his knowledge because the driver knew that he would be coming and for that no protest was received from any passenger

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Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Did these ladies seat themselves in the place reserved for the D. S. P.?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—The D. S. P. was not there. No complaint or protest was received from any of the passengers. So no enquiry was made.

Forced labour in the State.

98. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government state the total number and nature of instances of forced labour that have come to their notice during the last one year and the action they have taken in respect of each?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) Nil.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know, Sir, whether any specific enquiry was made about such a practice after receiving this question?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—An enquiry into the particular instance was made. When it was found there was no foundation there was no necessity for any general enquiry.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—I am asking whether there is such a practice in the village parts.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—The authorities had no occasion to know whether there is any such practice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—At least when a question was received, was there not a necessity to see whether there is a practice or not?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes. The authorities did not come to know of any incident of this kind. If there has been such a practice as is alleged in the question naturally the authorities would have come to know of it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I take it that there was no specific complaint from the injured parties?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No complaint has been received.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Was there any information to the Government from the press or the platform?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—A particular incident is referred to in the subsequent question. Something was said about that incident in the papers. There has been no general reference. This is only a case of one incident. On enquiry it was found out to be not true.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Am I to understand that the Government are in a position to assert that there is no such a general practice?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—There is no forced labour in Cochin State so far as the Police are aware.

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